

Great American Voices
Concert for U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
Twentynine Palms, California
February 8, 2006

*Great American Voices is presented by
the National Endowment for the Arts
in cooperation with OPERA America.*

*Great American Voices is made possible
by The Boeing Company.*

Program

Libiamo
*from Verdi's **La Traviata***

Company

Toreador
*from Bizet's **Carmen***

Mr. LeRoy Villanueva

O mio babbino caro
*from Puccini's **Gianni Schicchi***

Ms. Heather Calvete

Something's Coming
*from Bernstein's **West Side Story***

Mr. Michal Connor

La ci darem la mano
*from Mozart's **Don Giovanni***

*Ms. Heather Calvete
and Mr. LeRoy Villanueva*

Nessun Dorma
*from Puccini's **Turandot***

Mr. Robert MacNeil

Old Mother Hubbard
Healy-Hutchinson

Mr. LeRoy Villanueva

Five minute pause

Che gelida manina
Mi chiamano Mimi
O soave fanciulla
*from Puccini's **La bohème***

*Mr. Robert MacNeil
Ms. Heather Calvete*

Besame mucho
Velazquez

Mr. Eli Villanueva

Ride on, King Jesus!
Traditional Negro Spiritual

Mr. Michal Connor

Balcony Scene
*Bernstein's **West Side Story***

*Ms. Heather Calvete from
and Mr. Eli Villanueva*

Ol' Man River
*from Kern's **Showboat***

Company

Mr. Daniel Faltus, piano

Artists

HEATHER CALVETE: Soprano Heather Calvete has been very involved with L.A. Opera's outreach efforts for the last four years as performing and teaching artist. She has performed elsewhere in roles including Nedda in *I Pagliacci*, Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Mimi in *La bohème*, Alice in *Falstaff*, Rosario in *Goyescas*, Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*, the Governess in *Turn of the Screw*, Lady Billows in *Albert Herring*, Lady with a Cake Box in *Postcard from Morocco*, Quica in *Luis Alonso* and the title character in *Pauline Viardot's Cendrillon*. Ms. Calvete has appeared with Opera San Jose, Lyric Opera Los Angeles, Repertory Opera Company, the Jarvis Conservatory, among others. Ms. Calvete earned first place in the Orange County District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and has competed as a finalist in the West Coast Region. Ms. Calvete holds a Master of Music in Vocal Arts from the University of Southern California, and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from California State University, Fullerton.

MICHAEL CONNOR: Baritone Michael Connor has had an extensive career on the musical stage in North America and Europe, performing in productions of *Showboat* on Broadway, as well as national tours of *Ragtime* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. In addition to performances of *Porgy and Bess* in Berlin, Mr. Connor has concertized throughout Germany, championing American and British art-songs, and appearing on the North German Radio Showcase. One of Mr. Connor's favorite hobbies is gardening, and he recently starred on the Emmy nominated program *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* for ABC, where his talents as a landscape designer were fully utilized. In addition to being an actor and singer, Mr. Connor is a published author of *The Slave Letters*, and the composer and director of a musical drama for young audiences based on his book, depicting the compelling story of African slaves and their journey to freedom. Mr. Connor is a graduate of L'Ecole Hindemith, in Vevey, Switzerland, and also Carnegie-Mellon University in Pennsylvania.

DANIEL FALTUS: Music Director Daniel Faltus, has performed at the Kennedy Center, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Radio City Music Hall and Lincoln Center. He has concertized in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and has conducted musicals in the U.S. and Europe. Mr. Faltus is currently the Music Director for L.A. Opera's in-school-opera program as well as the library project and community concerts series. He has performed in Mexico with soprano Julia Migenes and he recently played an all-Brahms program as part of Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Sunday's at Four series, heard on KUSC. He has also directed and coached performance at the Hollywood Bowl for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Also an actor, Mr. Faltus played opposite Oscar-winner Faye Dunaway in the National tour of the Tony-winning play *Master Class*. He was recently featured in the award-winning film, *Don: Plain & Tall*. Television appearances include *Encore! Encore!*, *Alias*, *Monk*, *It's All Relative*, and the role of Chives, the English butler on the Emmy-nominated series *Even Stevens*.

ROBERT MACNEIL: Tenor Robert MacNeil, a winner of the Metropolitan Opera Western Regional Auditions, made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1998 in Britten's *The World of the Spirit*. This season, he returned to the San Diego Chamber Orchestra for *Handel's Messiah* and *Orff's Carmina Burana* as well as *Verdi's Requiem* with the Bozeman Symphony and *Elijah* with the Angeles Chorale. Engagements for the 2002-2003 season included *Don Ottavio* in *Don Giovanni* with Opera Santa Barbara; Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* with the Puget Sound Choir in Portland; and *Messiah* with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. He also was featured in Bizet's *Carmen Fantasy* with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. Previous performances include *Mozart's Requiem* with the Los Angeles Master Chorale; *Beethoven's Choral Fantasy* with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra; and a performance and recording of *Bach's B Minor Mass* with the William Hall Master Chorale. In 2001, he traveled to Rome, where he soloed in *Verdi's Requiem* at the request of the Vatican. He performed *Tamino* in *The Magic Flute* with the Cascade Music Festival. He is featured on the Koch International recording of Copland's *The Tender Land*.

ELI VILLANUEVA: Baritone Eli Villanueva has earned outstanding credentials as a performer, and is quickly becoming a respected name not only as a published composer but also as a stage director. Mr. Villanueva has appeared internationally in leading baritone roles including Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, Marcello and Schaunard in *La bohème*, and Falke in *Die Fledermaus* with such noted companies as the San Francisco Opera Center, L.A. Opera, and for the Cultural Arts Festival in Cortona, Italy. Presently, Mr. Villanueva is resident stage director for L.A. Opera's acclaimed In-School Opera Program. He has also appeared in various L.A. Opera community productions, most recently singing the role of Gino in *The Magic Dream*. As Resident Stage Director for *OperaWorks*, a nationally recognized opera training program, he teaches stage techniques and co-creates new works. He also has appeared as guest stage director for universities throughout Southern California. Mr. Villanueva's compositions are praised for their appeal to audiences and performers alike. Music ranging from solo vocal to choral works to popular Handbell songs, can be found through publishing companies like Fred Bock Music and Laurendale Associates.

LEROY VILLANUEVA: After winning the Metropolitan Opera National Auditions in 1988, American baritone LeRoy Villanueva was awarded an Adler Fellowship with the San Francisco Opera Center. As a member of the Merola Opera Program, he received the Schwabacher Memorial First Prize, and sang in Western Opera Theater's 1988-89 tour, which included performances in Japan, Guam, Saipan and China. He was the first recipient of the prestigious Lotos Foundation Award, which resulted in his New York debut at Carnegie Recital Hall. Mr. Villanueva has sung at the San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Geneva Opera, Philadelphia Opera, Montreal Opera, Michigan Opera Theater, and the New Israeli Opera. Mr. Villanueva has also appeared in numerous US and world premieres, including, for the Paris Opera, creating the role of Spendius in *Phillipe Fenelon's Salammbô*. Mr. Villanueva has sung concerts with such orchestras as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and most recently with the Tokyo Symphony. An active recitalist, he has recently completed an extensive tour of 34 cities across the United States, in a program combining American Indian, Hispanic and Puerto Rican Folk Songs with the more traditional works of Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Ravel and Poulenc. Mr. Villanuev's recordings include the role of Sancho Panza in *Fenelon's Le Chevalier Imaginaire*, and the title role in *Monteverdi's Il Ritorno d'Uisse* in *Patria*. He recently appeared in a new film by the BBC entitled *Amahl & the Night Visitors*, by Menotti, due to be broadcast and released on CD and DVD.

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